

DECCW Principle 11: Offsets must be located appropriately.
Wherever possible, offsets should be located in areas that have the same or similar ecological characteristics as the area affected by the development.

DSEWP&C Equivalent (Principle 6): Environmental offsets should be located within the same general area as the development activity.

The Goulburn River Biodiversity area is not in the same general area as Archerfield. It is 100 kilometres to the west and not in the Hunter valley

DECCW Principle 13: Offsets and their actions must be enforceable through Development consent conditions, licence conditions, conservation agreements or a contract.

Offsets must be audited to ensure that the actions have been carried out, and monitored to determine that the actions are leading to positive biodiversity outcomes.

DSEWP&C Equivalent (Principle 8): Environmental offsets should be enforceable, monitored and audited.

Clearly no-one has been policing this. HVO has not complied with the requirement of the original approval and shows a lack of responsibility in looking after the environment.

3. Like for Like in offsetting

The Goulburn River Biodiversity area does not contain soils which are like for like to Archerfield and in particular the Aeolian Sands which are the foundation for the Warkworth Sands Woodlands. Offset in the Goulburn River Biodiversity area will not conserve the biodiversity of the local area where losses will occur.

4. The discretion of the Director General.

Many sections of the application refers to "at the discretion of the Director General". Based on the poor performance to date and the lack of protection provided by the DoPI and the Director we do not have any confidence in the Director's discretion. Matters must be accepted and agreed now with proper assessment and not left for a Director in the future to agree to or to change.

5. Use of land for other offset proposals

Clause (X) on page 4 (pages not numbered) under "Insert the following conditions" it states "The conservation agreement must remain in force in perpetuity". The history of the Deed of Agreement for the 2003 Warkworth Extension project shows that the community cannot trust or have any confidence in the DoPI or the Mine to provide guarantees for the future of the conservation areas.

This clause also states "This land can be included in a conservation agreement for other offset proposals". This statement trivialises dedicating land as an offset when clearly it states that others can also claim this offset as theirs. This process is 'double dipping' and cannot be allowed.

We request the DoPI reject the offsetting of the 140ha Archerfield site with that proposed in the Goulburn River area.

Yours sincerely
The Bulga Milbrodale Progress Association Inc



Stewart Mitchell
President.